

WILLING TO ASK THE QUESTIONS?

Do you like football? I enjoy watching a good game, especially college football. As an SEC fan I am really enjoying being back here after three years in Hawaii. You can ask me later which team I support. However, one of the things I enjoy doing during the game is watching the quarterback and how he leads his team. Their awareness of what is happening on both sides of the scrimmage line is integral to their ability to successfully play and win the game.

Have you noticed the difference between high school, college and pro quarterbacks? At each level they function in a different way. During a high school football game, the quarterback looks to the sidelines for the coach to sign in the next play. It doesn't mean the quarterback isn't capable. They know how to execute the play and may even have a knack for improvising when needed to make a play successful. However, their level of experience demands they look to the coach to help them read the defense and the abilities of the opposing team to determine what to do next. Most college quarterbacks also have the plays relayed to them from the sidelines. As abilities grow we see pro quarterbacks calling the plays. Experience has taught them about reading defenses and determining the course of an attack against the opposing team. We have great respect for that quarterback who does this well and is able to lead their team to victory.

As we celebrate the holidays we have opportunities to gather with friends and family to celebrate as a free people the traditions of our country. We are free to express our faith in worship without fear of reprisal. Yet, are we really aware of all that is truly important about the upcoming holidays? The difference between the high school and pro quarterback is their experience and their grasp of the bigger picture of the game. Playing the game is more than execution. It is reading the progress of play and being able to determine what to do next. It is about knowing how the rules of the game inform how to play and what to do at any given moment.

Do you know why you are celebrating the holidays? Do you know why you live your life as you do? Are you going through the motions of living and celebrating without understanding the larger implications of life's meaning? Is society, the media, someone's personal philosophy sending in the plays or have you become mature enough to seek out for yourself the meaning of faith, relationships and living our lives as our creator designed?

These are important questions. Most of the time we can't find the answers alone but need others to assist us in the endeavor. Are you willing to ask them and search out the answers? Without the answers to these questions, the only question we will have is, "Is there more to this life?"